

First Record of Nematode *Trichuris* spp. from sheep in Basrah City, Southern Iraq

Israa Mohsen Essa ¹, Ghazi Yaqoub Azzal ²

^{1,2} Department of Microbiology, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Basrah, Basra, Iraq

Abstract

Trichuris spp. Nematodes were isolated from slaughtered sheep in the South Regions of Iraq / Basrah. The diagnosis and description were based on morphological characteristics. Two species of *Trichuris* were found, *T. ovis* and *T. globulosa*. While *T. ovis* was most common, *T. globulosa* was relatively rare among the infested animals. Male and female nematodes were recognized as *Trichuris* spp. morphologically; however, only one male was identified as *T. globulosa*. The species of *Trichuris* spp. were distinguished through their biometrical features such as presence of cylindrical spicular sheath, protrusive vulva, length of the spicule, as well as the proximal and distal cloacal tube. Moreover, diagnosis of *Trichuris* species was confirmed by the nomenclatural acts as it has been recorded in the registration system of the Iraqi Natural History Research Center when a certain deposit number for *Trichuris* spp.: INHM.2020Nem.1.1. They were noting the presence of *Trichuris* spp. as such the samples of nematodes were deposited in the helminth collection at the Museum of the University of Baghdad. This repository is considered as the confirmation of the diagnosis and morphological analysis.

Keywords: *Trichuris ovis*, *Trichuris globulosa*, Morphological characters, Sheep, Basra.

INTRODUCTION

Nematodes of the Genus *Trichuris* (Adenophorea: Trichuridae) Roederer 1761, is cosmopolitan and destroy a wide variety of mammalian hosts, including humans [1, 2]. The *Trichuris* genus includes medicinal and veterinary species importance; Human has been acquired by domestic animals from many countries or is shared with them [3]. *Trichuris ovis* is a caecal parasite most prevalent in ruminants irrespective of age, gender, and breed of the hosts [4]. Trichuridae nematodes are one of the most diverse and widely distributed groups of parasitic worms. It has a clear economic impact, as it may cause the death of economic animals, including sheep, which in severe cases; suffer from bloody colitis and diphtheritic caecitis, causing ulcerative and necrotic mucosal lesions. Extreme anemia and dehydration, and jaundice in animals with high worm burden can contribute to animal death [5, 6, 7]. There are more than 70 species of *Trichuris* nematodes parasitic recorded in primate mammals such as ruminants, lagomorphs, even-toed ungulates, rodents, carnivores [8, 9].